

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

1. Please rewrite the second full paragraph on page 4 starting at line 11.

A1
--Referring to FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C, confocal microscopes are shown having a probe section with an incoherent fiber optic bundle FB1 and an objective lens OL and an illuminating and imaging section. Light, such as produced by a laser, illuminates the incoherent fiber optic bundle FB1 via optics having a slit aperture S1, and focused by objective lens OL to the region of interest, such as of tissue. The light collected by the lens OL from the region of interest is received by the incoherent fiber optic bundle FB1 and then imaged by onto a detector, such as a CCD camera, via optics having a confocal slit aperture S2.--

2. Please rewrite the second full paragraph on page 8 starting at line 10.

A2
--The incoherent fiber bundle used in the example give above is only approximately random in that groups of nearby fibers tend to stay clustered together from one end to the other end of the bundle. Nonetheless, substantial improvement in optical sectioning is achieved with a slit aperture, as shown in FIG. 4. A bundle that scrambles in a pre-set pattern may be preferred. Then software decoding of the image does not require measurement of the fiber mapping. Such a pattern may be one that maps every row of a square matrix into a maximally separated square grid that fills a matrix of the same dimension. In terms of light budget, a fiber bundle with a high fill factor and low numerical aperture may be preferable. The low aperture minimizes light loss